

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

5216 Montrose Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77006
CAMH.ORG | CAMH.SHOP

Press Release

Exhibition

Troy Montes Michie: Rock of Eye

September 23, 2022–January 29, 2023



Installation view of *Troy Montes Michie: Rock of Eye* at California African American Museum (CAAM), Los Angeles, 2022. Photo by Elon Schoenholz.

HOUSTON, TX (August 10, 2022) — Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH) is pleased to present *Troy Montes Michie: Rock of Eye*, the first solo exhibition for the El Paso-born artist. Working in collage, drawing, painting, and sculpture, Troy Montes Michie (b. 1985) engages Black consciousness, Latinx experience, intersectional identity, immigration, and queerness through assemblage and juxtaposition. Montes Michie's work was presented at CAMH in 2013 and 2019 through *Outside the Lines* and *Stonewall 50* exhibitions, respectively.

#TroyMontesMichie
#RockOfEye
#atCAMH

Press Contact

For high-resolution images or media inquiries, contact:

Michael Robinson
Communications and Marketing
Manager
mrobinson@camh.org
713.284.8255

Troy Montes Michie: Rock of Eye is an early-career survey, collecting the artist's collages, drawings, and sculptures to draw the contours of body and place. To tailor a garment by "rock of eye" is to rely on the drape in the fitting process—that is, to rely on experience over mathematical measurement. Draping is a kind of drawing in space: a freehand, an intuition, a trust of materials. The exhibition expands from the series of work the artist exhibited at CAMH previously, which recasts found images of the Black male body, to include zoot suit sculptures. These recent textile works trace the social history and form of the garment, which was at the center of the 1943 attacks primarily on Mexican American, African American, and Filipino American youth in Los Angeles known as the Zoot Suit Riots. These sculptures feature zoot suits custom made by a tailor located in El Paso, who fits the garment to the artist's measurements.

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Troy Montes Michie, *Tacuche #4*, 2019. Clothing fragments, shoe fragments, hanger with zoot suit jacket, 57 x 23 inches. Image courtesy the artist and Company Gallery, New York.



Troy Montes Michie, *This Body is Not a Fortress #6*, 2019. Cut paper, acrylic, ink, wax pencil, and tape on paper weaving, 17.25 x 11.25 inches. Image courtesy the artist and Company Gallery, New York.

CAMH's presentation of the exhibition will feature a new addition: a 2022 collage piece that spans forty feet in length titled *Was the Beautiful Woman in the Mirror of the Water You or Me?*. The work stitches together disparate elements including catalogue pages, wire hangers, garment bags, and articles of clothing, all of which are overlaid with images of women donning zoot suits. This monumental piece is an ode to the Chicana matriarchs and blends the artist's tailoring and collage skills.

Montes Michie's practice reflects his experience growing up along the United States and Mexico border in El Paso, Texas. His works are studies in ambiguity around figuration and abstraction, fashion and visual arts, and portrayal of gender. The cuts and folds of patterning and mapping in his work have an astute focus on boundaries and transgression.

"I'm excited to have my *Rock of Eye* traveling to my home state," says artist Troy Montes Michie. "Much of my work has been created at a distance, but continuously remembering the border community that raised me."

"CAMH is fortunate to have a longstanding relationship with Troy, initially showing his work in our *Outside the Lines* exhibition nearly a decade ago, followed more recently by *Stonewall 50*," says CAMH's Assistant Curator Patricia Restrepo. "We strive to support rising voices in contemporary art robustly and throughout their careers. CAMH's upcoming presentation of Troy's first solo museum exhibition is a full circle moment almost ten years in the making."

By utilizing textiles, garments, and archival materials from newsprint to erotic magazines, Montes Michie subverts dominant narratives by placing past and present in confrontation. Through his use of contrast patterning, a technique of camouflage, the artist investigates the ways in which bodies of marginalized communities are frequently erased, fetishized, idealized, and criminalized. With *Rock of Eye*, Montes Michie's stitches suture histories and geographies; they establish thresholds for crossing. His needle hits rock.

Troy Montes Michie: Rock of Eye is a collaboration between the Rivers Institute for Contemporary Art & Thought and California African American Museum (CAAM). The exhibition is curated by Andrea Andersson, Rivers Institute founding director and chief curator, with Jordan Amirkhani, curator, Rivers Institute, and Taylor Renee Aldridge, visual arts curator, CAAM. Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH)'s presentation is coordinated by Patricia Restrepo, Assistant Curator.

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Troy Montes Michie, *This Body is Not a Fortress #5*, 2019. Cut paper, acrylic, ink, wax pencil, and tape on paper weaving, 17.25 x 10.75 inches. Image courtesy the artist and Company Gallery, New York.

CAMH Mission

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston presents extraordinary, thought-provoking arts programming and exhibitions to educate and inspire audiences nationally and internationally.

General Information

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, in the heart of Houston's Museum District.

Hours

Wed 11AM-6PM
Thu 11AM-9PM
Fri 11AM-6PM
Sat 11AM-6PM
Sun 11AM-6PM

Admission is always free. For more information, visit CAMH.ORG or call 713.284.8250.

About the Artist

Troy Montes Michie holds a BFA from the University of Texas at El Paso and an MFA from Yale School of Art. His works have recently been included in exhibitions at the Institute for Contemporary Art at VCU (Richmond), The MAC (Belfast), The Shed (New York), The Whitney Museum of American Art (New York), and Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. He is currently a Lecturer of Visual Arts in Program at Princeton University.

About Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH) presents extraordinary, thought-provoking arts programming and exhibitions to educate and inspire audiences nationally and internationally. Established in 1948, CAMH is one of the oldest non-collecting contemporary art museums in the country, and is internationally known for presenting pivotal and landmark work by artists recognized as the most important of the 20th and 21st centuries. CAMH's mandate is to be present, to connect artists and audiences through the urgent issues of our time, and to adventurously promote the catalytic possibilities of contemporary art. CAMH's programming, both in and beyond the Museum, is presented free to the public, and advocates for artists' essential role in society.

Support

Troy Montes Michie: Rock of Eye has been made possible by the patrons, benefactors and donors to CAMH's Major Exhibition Fund: Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Sissy and Denny Kempner, MD Anderson Foundation, Rea Charitable Trust, Louisa Stude Sarofim, The Sarofim Foundation, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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